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RUNCORN RURAL DISTRICT

SEP 28 1957

Handwritten flourish

A circular stamp with the words "MINISTRY OF HEALTH" around the top and "LIBRARY" around the bottom, with a central circle.

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

Year ending 31st December

1957

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RURAL DISTRICT AUTHORITY OF RUNCORN

ANNUAL REPORT

1 9 5 7

by

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MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
RUNCORN URBAN AND RURAL DISTRICTS**

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- (2) Divisional Medical Officer of Health
Divisional School Medical Officer (Runcorn Division)**

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from 1st July, 1957
Certified Public Health Inspector (P.H.I.E.B.)**

Clerk/Pupil Public Health Inspector:

A. A. KIPPAX

Clerical Duties:

MRS. D. COWAP

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AN APPEAL TO ALL CONCERNED, ESPECIALLY TO VOLUNTARY SOCIETIES, IS AGAIN MADE TO MAKE FULL USE OF THIS REPORT; DISCUSSION GROUPS, ETC., IN HEALTH EDUCATION SHOULD BE ARRANGED FOR IN THE INTERESTS OF PUBLIC HEALTH AT FREQUENT INTERVALS.

SPECIAL ATTENTION IS DRAWN TO “THE COMMONSENSE PREVENTIVE MEASURES AGAINST DISEASE”.

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF RUNCORN, 1957

From 28th May, 1957

Chairman of the Council:

COUNCILLOR JOHN W. KIRKHAM, J.P.

Vice-Chairman of the Council:

COUNCILLOR Mrs E. STANSFIELD, J.P., until November, 1957

COUNCILLOR H. R. DONE, from November, 1957

Health Committee:

COUNCILLOR H. R. DONE, *Chairman*

COUNCILLOR T. L. LOOKER, Vice-Chairman, until November, 1957

COUNCILLOR Mrs K. I. DEWES, C.C., from November, 1957

COUNCILLOR W. H. CAPPER,	COUNCILLOR H. JACKSON
M.B.E., J.P.	„ G. J. McQUILLAN
„ D. L. DAVIES	„ R. E PAYTON, C.C.
„ Mrs. J. A. GLOVER	„ Mrs. I. J. WALLIS
„ H. HELSBY	„ G. S. WALLWORTH
„ J. HUNT	

COUNCILLOR W. H. STUBBS, from November, 1957 and Chairman
and Vice-Chairman of the Council

OFFICERS:

Solicitor/Clerk of the Council:

Mr. R. PATRICK WILLIAMS, Frodsham

Engineer and Surveyor:

Mr B. PRESTON, B.Sc., A.M.I.C.E., M.I.Mun.E., Frodsham

INTRODUCTION

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF RUNCORN

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting to you this my 20th Annual Report for the year-ending 31st December, 1957.

Population: There is an increase of 390 in the Registrar General's estimate of the total population from 37,080 in 1956 to 37,470 in 1957.

Birth Rate: The Birth Rate per thousand of the population showed a slight increase being 15.55 in 1957 by comparison with 14.10 in 1956.

Death Rate: The Death Rate for 1957 was 11.10 per thousand of the population compared with 11.84 in 1956. The total number of deaths in the Runcorn Rural District in 1957 was 446 compared with 439 in 1956. Your special attention is drawn to the detailed table on page 38 which gives the deaths from various diseases (e.g. Coronary Thrombosis, etc.) shown in age groups and sex.

Infantile Mortality Rate: The Death Rate of all infants under one year of age per thousand of live births was 12.00 (7 deaths) in 1957 as compared with 24.85 (13 deaths) in 1956. (See page 39)

Incidence of Infectious Disease: The incidence of infectious disease was more than the previous year; 949 cases were notified as compared with 184 during 1956 (due to Measles).

Tuberculosis: Though the rate for Pulmonary Tuberculosis remains relatively high, the reduction in Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis (1938-69) 1957—39, is to be noted with satisfaction. Clean and pure heat-treated milk are especially the cause of this. The fight against Pulmonary Tuberculosis continues *vide* my remarks in this report on the subject; in addition the full application of the New Clean Air Act, aided by the various sections of the Public Health Act.

“THE COMMONSENSE PREVENTIVE MEASURES AGAINST DISEASE”

Immediately following this Introduction are my “Commonsense Preventive Measures against Disease,” which I strongly recommend should be read and carried out by all concerned.

Housing: The number of applications for Council Houses was 859 at the end of the year under review.

The number of houses owned by the Council at the end of the year was 1,448; total number of new houses erected by the Council during the year was 77. The total number of inhabited houses as at 31st December, 1957, was 11,969.

My Council are paying special attention to the removal as priority cases, expectant mothers and families with young children from slum property; this is one way we will still further be able to reduce the infantile mortality rate (N.B. Ante-Natal Care, etc.) Slum Clearance Schemes (5 year programme) are being dealt with as a priority. My Council are to be congratulated on their re-housing programme especially since the last war, also the connection of dwellings to mains water and the provision of new sewers throughout the District. Milk supplies are now mostly T.T. tested and heat-treated.

Ventilation and Heating of Houses, etc: From time to time I have stressed the need for a more commonsense approach to this matter in this country (*vide* local press, etc.)

“The question of ventilation and heating in the British Isles requires urgent investigation in that sometimes through sheer lack of thought, draughty, cold houses are experienced (and so “colds”, etc.), when with the use of some commonsense, proper ventilation and heating would be available—and so better health.”

N.B. Ventilation: This means movement of air without draughts; windows and doors should be made draught-proof and a simple and proper system of

controlled ventilation arranged; for this ask an expert, e.g., a ventilation/heating Engineer, your local Surveyor or Public Health Inspector.

Heating: This must be adequate, not too much or insufficient, many rooms and corridors, especially in large houses require a *minimum of central heating*, e.g., a hot pipe running through them; this may be added to by ordinary coal fires (preferably smokeless), electric or gas fires in certain rooms; again ask experts as suggested under ventilation above. *Do not forget the bathroom.*

General: Much ill-health can be prevented if more *commonsense* was used in these important matters. A room thermometer is useful in seeing these are kept at the right *temperature and humidity*. If in doubt ask an expert as suggested above; the cost will *not* be much, balancing this *better health will be the result* for ourselves and visitors from overseas.

N.B.: The policy of placing heating at nearly roof level is wrong and may cause various diseases (e.g., head and shoulders hot—feet cold). The appropriate Ministry, &c., should enquire into this important matter again.

Flies: As stated in my Commonsense Preventive Measures against Disease:—

(a) **FLIES:** Any dirt, faeces, manure, etc., **in which flies breed** must be disposed of quickly and thoroughly (burying and **well covering** these with earth is one of the best ways). Flies should be destroyed by, e.g., fly sprays, fly swats, fly papers, etc., and food larders, pail closets, and bins **must** be fly proof. Food **must** be protected from dust, dirt, flies, rats and mice, and kept in a cool, well-ventilated place. Disinfectant solution **must** be used to **cover** contents in pail closets.

WHY? Flies **carry** disease germs (in and on their bodies) from all kinds of dirt to food, and so spread diseases.

We are not sufficiently “*FLY CONSCIOUS*”—every effort *must* be made to cure this and so help to prevent many intestinal diseases including Polio-myelitis, Enteritis, Typhoid and Food Poisoning.

Cleanliness of HANDS AND NAILS: My remarks above about *Flies* should be read in conjunction with this in my Commonsense Preventive Measures against Disease . . . it is stated:—

CLEANLINESS. (a) This **must** be thorough in or around the house, kitchen, shop, larder, etc. (This **also** applies to feeding bottles and teats.) **WHY?** Where these are **absolutely** clean there are few, if any, disease germs. Feeding bottles and teats **must** be thoroughly washed and boiled prior to use. If in doubt ask your Public Health Department, Welfare Centre, Health Visitor, or District Nurse.

(b) This also applies to those who handle and cook food, especially the hands and nails.

N.B.: **WHY?** Dirt (with disease germs) may be on the hands or **under the nails** and so spread disease germs to food; **always** thoroughly wash the hands **and clean under the nails** after using the lavatory.

We must *NOT* be prudish about this, for the facts are the germs of Polio-myelitis, Typhoid, &c., may be in the bowels and when we use the lavatory, our hands and nails may become infected—so it is *essential* to *thoroughly* wash and clean these after using the lavatory—as mentioned above under “*FLIES*”; if this was drilled into schoolchildren (at school and at home) and all other diseases, as mentioned under *Flies* above (with the aid of protective immunisation) would be eventually wiped out (using also vaccination, &c., against various diseases).

Disease Spread from Animals to Humans: It is good to note that Medical and Veterinary Research workers, &c., are co-operating more and more in this important matter. Tropical Diseases have been cut to a minimum all over the world by this method of spread of disease being recognised and dealt with.

Vaccination and Immunisation: It is understood that in the near future one vaccine may be available (for babies—then a booster dose later) to include in

this prevention against Poliomyelitis, Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Tetanus and possibly Measles—this will be an efficient way which will prevent the many injections to children as given today.

Important:—

(i) *Allergic Diseases*: As quoted in my Commonsense Preventive Measures against Disease—in a large percentage of cases can be cured—the diseases for example, Migraine, Hayfever, Asthma, some types of Eczema (especially in children) due to allergy, cause much unnecessary suffering; by seeing a Doctor (tests, &c.) many of these can be cured or relieved; this also applies to contact “Dermatitis”.

Finally may I quote a summary of a lecture (also gramophone and tape recorded) on “Health and the Joy of Life”:—

1. Develop proper contacts every day so that they will “switch on” and give you the right knowledge and stimulus to live; so developing your mental, physical and spiritual life together. At all ages develop the “Outward Bound” spirit.

2. Look after the three “T’s”—Tonsils, Teeth and Tummy. See your Doctor and Dentist when you need to, but whether fit or not be examined by your Doctor at least once a year and your Dentist every six months.

3. Eat proper food daily, a varied diet cooked properly, and include in it the preventive foods—those which prevent disease—Milk, Eggs, Fresh Vegetables (both cooked and in salads), Fruit, Animal Fat and Fish, especially Herrings. Do not forget the importance of flavour in your cooking, use e.g., onions, leeks and all the herbs.

4. If in doubt as to the purity of water, or if milk is not pasteurised, boil them.

5. Be clean—use soap and more “*elbow grease*”.

6. If you want to know of any contact, that is, to commence any organisations in your district, write to your Medical Officer of Health.

7. Study the books on Hygiene by the Red Cross and St. John Societies. Listen to the Radio Doctor and study *his* books.

8. *Finally, with the team spirit fully developed in you, work hard, play hard and learn to relax.* You will then have gained something towards enjoying “*Health and the Joy of Life*”.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE AREA:

The details under this Section have been compiled by Mr. D. Boothman, M.A.P.H.I., Senior Public Health Inspector.

ANNUAL REPORT—DIVISIONAL MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH for the year-ending 31st December, 1957

(by agreement with the Cheshire County Council and my local Council)—this report is included as an Appendix “A” and attached hereto.

Over a period of over 20 years the co-operation and help of *all* concerned outside my offices, in the Public Health Department and other departments has been greatly appreciated by me in the carrying out of my various duties.

Yours obediently,

E. N. HILLMAN GRAY,
L.R.C.P. & S., L.M., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health

IMPORTANT

THE COMMON SENSE PREVENTIVE MEASURES AGAINST DISEASE

- (1) **CLEANLINESS.** (a) This **must** be thorough in or around the house, kitchen, shop, larder, etc. (This also applies to feeding bottles and teats.)

WHY? Where these are **absolutely** clean there are few, if any, disease germs. Feeding bottles and teats **must** be thoroughly washed and boiled prior to use. If in doubt ask your Public Health Department, Welfare Centre, Health Visitor, or District Nurse.

(b) This also applies to those who handle and cook food, especially the hands and nails.

WHY? Dirt (with disease germs) may be on the hands or **under the nails** and so spread disease germs to food; **always** thoroughly wash the hands and **clean under the nails** after using the lavatory.

- (2) **DESTRUCTION OF FLIES, RATS AND MICE.**

(a) **FLIES:** Any dirt, faeces, manure, etc., in which flies breed must be disposed of quickly and thoroughly (burying and well covering these with earth is one of the best ways). Flies should be destroyed by, e.g., fly sprays, fly swats, fly papers, etc., and food larders, pail closets, and bins **must** be fly proof. Food **must** be protected from dust, dirt, flies, rats and mice, and kept in a cool well ventilated place. Disinfectant solution **must** be used to cover contents in pail closets.

WHY? Flies **carry** disease germs (in and on their bodies) from all kinds of dirt to food, and so spread diseases.

(b) **RATS AND MICE:** For the destruction of these ask your chemist; failing this your Public Health Inspector (who is also the Rodent Officer).

WHY? Rats and mice breed in all kinds of dirt, and like flies carry disease germs to food (and water).

- (3) **FOOD** should be **properly** heat treated; this applies especially to the manufacture of ice cream, the cooking of shell-fish, and the pasteurisation and sterilization of milk. Where milk is not pasteurised or sterilized I recommend that this is boiled at home.

WHY? By proper heat treatment, any disease germs present are destroyed. This applies to all kinds of food, including ice cream, shell-fish and milk.

- (4) **WATERCRESS** must be obtained from properly controlled beds, that is, where pure water is supplied; **this with lettuce and fruits** without a fairly thick outside coat, should be thoroughly washed in a weak Condyl's solution and then rinsed with pure water before being eaten.

WHY? Watercress can carry disease germs on it; this also applies to lettuce and fruit.

- (5) **DRIED EGGS AND DRIED MILK** must be kept in a cool place, and when the package is opened it should be used up quickly.

WHY? These are good foods, but if the containers are left open to the air too long (e.g., over two days) germs can grow in them and so spread disease.

- (6) **ALL WATER FOR DRINKING, DIETETIC OR DAIRY PURPOSES** should be from a pure supply; if in doubt as to its purity, boil it well for small quantities, or chlorinate it for large quantities—see instructions on bottles obtainable from most chemists. **Do not bathe in rivers, etc.**, which may be sewage polluted.

WHY? Water, if impure, can have disease germs in it; boiling or chlorination kills disease germs. If you bathe in rivers, canals, etc., which may be sewage polluted, you may swallow disease germs.

- (7) **CONSTIPATION.** This *must* be avoided, for example, by eating sufficient roughage food, e.g., whole-meal bread and vegetables also by keeping the stomach muscles strong and healthy by games and P.T. exercises. If in doubt see your own doctor. Many diseases might be traced to chronic constipation.

WHY? If constipated, foul matter remains too long in the lower bowel so poisoning the blood and also holding disease germs in the bowel which may infect the body.

- (8) (a) **TO AVOID SPREADING “COLDS IN THE HEAD”, INFLUENZA, etc.** Use a handkerchief when you cough or sneeze.

WHY? A handkerchief acts as a screen and so catches disease germs from the nose and throat. Disinfect and boil handkerchiefs well prior to washing. Wet feet, wet clothes, and draughts cause chilling of the body and so render it more liable to disease.

(b) **COVERING UP THE MOUTH WHEN COUGHING OR SNEEZING.** Coughing or sneezing on *food*, for example, after influenza, etc., may cause a serious attack of e.g., enteritis, diarrhoea, etc., especially in babies and young children.

WHY? Because germs causing *serious* disease enter on or into food . . . **DO NOT COUGH OR SNEEZE** onto food: cover the mouth and nose with a handkerchief or etc., See your own doctor as required for treatment.

- (9) **ALLERGIC DISEASES.** The diseases for example, Migraine, Hayfever, Asthma, some types of Eczema (especially in children) due to allergy, cause much *unnecessary* suffering; by seeing a Doctor (tests, etc.) many of these can be cured or relieved; this also applies to contact “Dermatitis”.
- (10) **PROTECTIVE INJECTIONS AGAINST DIPHTHERIA, SMALL-POX, etc.** See that all (especially young children) have these as required.

WHY? By these injections the body is more fully protected against dangerous diseases. If in doubt ask your own doctor, Medical Officer of Health, Welfare Centre, Health Visitor, or District Nurse.

- (11) **PROPER DISINFECTION OF HOUSES**, etc. After any serious disease in a house, etc., see that this is carried out (ask your Public Health Department, Public Health Inspector), **also a thorough** “spring-cleaning”. The latter would be sufficient in less serious diseases such as Influenza Measles and Whooping Cough.

WHY? By this, disease germs are destroyed or washed away and so cannot infect others.

- (12) **ISOLATION OF CONTACTS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE**. Carry out thoroughly what is recommended on the special pamphlet issued by the Medical Officer of Health when patients are sent to hospital or nursed at home.

WHY? By so doing disease germs are less likely to spread. If in doubt ask your own doctor or Public Health Department (e.g., your Public Health Inspector). This also applies to any sick animals (indoors or outdoors); in doubt call in a Veterinary Officer.

- (13) **DEFECTIVE TEETH**. See your dentist if your teeth are bad or septic; better still see him as a routine every six months.

WHY? If your teeth are bad or septic the chewing powers are not good and so all kinds of indigestion may arise. Septic teeth (and gums) lead to poisoning of the blood and so to various diseases.

- (14) **THE PREVENTIVE FOODS**. Eat some of these daily in your daily diet which **must** be properly cooked, varied **and** flavoured.

WHY? The preventive foods (i.e., those which help the body to prevent disease) are:—

Milk and eggs (dried or ordinary);
Cheese;
Fresh vegetables and fruit (cooked or in salads);
Animal fats, e.g., fish (especially herrings), and butter;
Margarine (vitaminised);
Whole meal bread;

These all contain valuable substances called **VITAMINS** which are *essential* to good health. Where these essential foods are in short supply, etc., all concerned are reminded that extracts of these vitamins are contained in e.g., Rose Hip Juice and/or Ribena, Marmite, Yeast, certain tablets (all vitamins). *Parents are recommended to bottle or preserve fruit when it is cheap.*

- (15) **OBESITY (over-weight)**: How can this be the cause of many serious diseases and can shorten life . . . ?

WHY? By “clogging-up” of the blood vessels, the various organs of the body, disease can commence. By eating less fat and starchy foods at each meal, with more variety and taking, for example, small quantities of milk or sweets between meals, less fat, etc., will enter the body. Moderate, regular daily exercise, e.g., a walk, will help to “burn-up” fat. Guard against constipation. If in doubt see your own doctor.

- (16) RETIREMENT, Semi-RETIREMENT and OLD AGE: (also secondary employment in youth).

Question: What should one do to prepare for these (the proper use of leisure)?

Answer: As early as possible, and as necessary, seek the guidance first of, for example, your Medical Officer of Health, and/or Health Visitor, who will (acting in a "guidance service") refer you to other agencies—official and voluntary.

Remember *Old Age* is a *normal state*, but the diseases associated with it are not; see your own doctor as required, so that not only years can be added to life, but life can be added to years.

Loneliness, boredom and monotony *must* be dealt with by using the brain and body—for example, with hobbies of all kinds, other employment, etc. . . . See your own padre as required.

EVERYDAY is a BIRTHDAY and EVERYDAY we are born anew.

Younger persons working a 4 to 5 day week should in the same way as above, prepare for a new world of *secondary employment* (owing to for example, automation, the atomic age)—for this see your Ministry of Labour—Youth Employment Department, or, as above, your Medical Officer of Health and/or the Health Visitor. Ask your local Education Office, for under the Education Act, 1944, any subject (theory or practice) can be taught to *any* person at a very small cost to the person per week. Finally—EARN HAPPINESS BY GIVING.

GENERAL

- (1) Anyone feeling ill should see their own doctor (better still, as a routine, see him once a year)—though with the above common-sense precautions there should be little danger of contacting or spreading disease.
- (2) ASK FOR MORE OF THESE PAMPHLETS AS REQUIRED FROM YOUR MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH. Have discussion groups, lectures and films on health education. Attend the official classes on personal hygiene given by, e.g., the Red Cross Society, St. John Association, Scouts and Girl Guides—these organisations have excellent little books on the subject. Always carry out these common-sense preventive measures and *tell others about them*.
- (3) Good health mostly depends on YOU—your co-operation is essential.

“WHERE THERE IS DIRT THERE IS DISEASE”

E. N. HILLMAN GRAY, L.R.C.P.&S., L.M., D.P.H., F.R.S.H.
Medical Officer of Health, Runcorn Urban & Rural District
Divisional Medical Officer and School Medical Officer.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENTS:

1. Brunswick Hall, Brunswick Street, Runcorn.
2. Castle Park, Frodsham.

SECTION A

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

(a)	Area (in acres)	....	....	....	....	45,552
(b)	Estimated population (Registrar-General)	....	....			37,470
(c)	Number of inhabited houses (end 1957) according to the Rate Book	....	....	....	....	11,969
(d)	Rateable value of the District (end 1957)	....	....			£396,801
(e)	Sum represented by one penny rate (approx.)	Net				£1,622
(f)	Density of Population. Number of persons per acre (estimated population)	...	....	....	....	0.82
(g)	Average number of persons per inhabited house (estimated population)	....	....	....	....	3.13

Social Conditions

Agriculture and dairy farming are the chief industries of the district; other industries are tanneries, electric cable, electric fittings, steel tube works, wire works, flour mills and jam works. Sand quarrying is being carried on in the district, chiefly at Whitley and Moore.

Parts of the district are mainly residential.

Unemployment.—Exact statistics are not available for this area as the figures obtained by the local offices of the Ministry of Labour related to the areas served by such offices and these areas are not identical with the Runcorn Rural District. The incidence of unemployment, however, was low in the area.

Many of the inhabitants are employed in industrial areas outside the district.

Children's Homes.—There is a National Children's Home at Frodsham (173 children), one open-air Convalescent School for Jewish Children at Norley.

VITAL STATISTICS

			<i>Total</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
Live Births—Legitimate	....	....	564	296	268
Illegitimate	....	....	19	10	9
			<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
			583	306	277

Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 15.55

			<i>Total</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>
Still Births—Legitimate	....	....	7	4	3
Illegitimate	....	....	—	—	—
			—	—	—
			7	4	3

Rate of Still Births per 1,000 total (Live and Still births): 11.86.

Deaths 446 224 222

Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 11.10

Deaths from Puerperal Causes

(Heading 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List):

No. 30 Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion.....Nil

Death Rate of Infants Under One Year of Age

All Infants per 1,000 live births (7 deaths) Death Rate 12.00

Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births 12.41

Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births 0.00

Particulars of any Unusual or Excessive Mortality during the year which has received or required comment

The causes of the highest mortality were:

Heart Disease 133 (*Vide* Registrar-General)

Cancer 90 „

Heart Disease was prevalent in persons over 65 years of age, some cases may have been due to the effects of e.g., Rheumatism in childhood—this is being further investigated under the auspices of the Ministry of Health (lack of vitamin C, improper diet, gland deficiency, etc.).

For further remarks on Cancer see page 42 (i.e., further research, early treatment, etc.).

COMPARISON RATES

<i>Year</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>Birth Rate</i>	<i>Death Rate</i>	<i>Infantile Mortality Rate</i>
1947	32,930	16.85	11.93	48.6
1948	34,230	15.37	11.08	36.13
1949	34,550	11.75	11.92	27.66
1950	35,580	13.91	10.72	20.20
1951	35,510	13.83	13.89	48.88
1952	35,520	13.86	11.38	20.32
1953	35,800	13.63	10.28	22.54
1954	36,260	13.59	12.58	24.34
1955	36,810	13.36	11.49	14.22
1956	37,080	14.10	11.84	24.85
1957	37,470	15.55	11.10	12.00

A table on page 39 gives the Birth Rate, Death Rate and analysis of mortality during the year 1957 and comparisons with England and Wales.

Summary of Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age

1 (a) Prematurity (2) Anoxia due to maternal haemorrhage	....	....	Male aged 1 hour
1 (a) Congenital obliteration bile ducts....			Male aged 1 week
1 (a) Subarachnoid haemorrhage....	....		Female aged 2 months
1 (a) Acute Broncho Pneumonia....	....		Male aged 2 months
1 (a) Prematurity	....	....	Female aged 10 hours
1 (a) Prematurity	....	....	Male aged 2 hours
1 (a) Neo-natal asphyxia (b) Cerebral haemorrhage	....	....	Male aged 1 day

Prevention of any Unusual or Excessive Mortality—Children

Treatment in a General Hospital or an Infectious Disease Hospital, etc., is available for all such cases if any Doctor decides that treatment will benefit, and the patient is fit to be moved. Premature births are specially treated in Hospital or Nursing Homes. District Nurses assist in nursing at home (via the patient's own doctor).

The above is in addition to Health Education, Welfare Schemes and Clinics, etc.

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

1. Public Health Officers

The names and qualifications, districts, addresses and telephone numbers are given at the beginning of the Report.

2. Laboratory Facilities

The Biological Institute of Messrs. Evans Medical Supplies is established in Runcorn. Query Anthrax cases can be examined here and necessary treatment given as required; prior to any hospital treatment.

With the facilities given by the Public Health Laboratory, Hamilton Square, Birkenhead, Public Health Laboratory, Mount Pleasant, Liverpool, the Public Health Laboratory, Monsall Hospital, Newton Heath, Manchester, and the Public Health Laboratories at Warrington and Chester Royal Infirmaries, also various General Hospital Laboratories, all concerned will now be able to make fuller arrangements for pathological overhauls *so essential* in certain cases. It is hoped that this extended service will give all concerned further facilities in the investigation of infectious disease and disease generally (e.g. by pathological overhauls).

Milk is sent to the Public Health Laboratory, Hamilton Square, Birkenhead.

V.D. specimens are sent to the laboratories mentioned above, as required.

SECTION C

1. Water

(i) The water supply of the area has been satisfactory in quality, with the exception of isolated farms and houses not on a mains supply.

(ii) As a result of Liverpool Corporation having introduced boosting on the Vyrnwy Aqueduct and this Council's connections being on the suction side, pressure has been thereby reduced, in particular to Norley and Sutton area.

To counteract this, the Council have promoted a scheme for their own boosters at Norley and for the Sutton area (Aston, Preston Brook, Dutton, Sutton). This scheme was submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government and awaits their decision.

(iii) Mains supplies and results of chemical analyses and bacteriological examinations are as follows. Parishes refer to the main areas; outlying portions of parishes may be connected to other mains.

Alvanley and Helsby—by the Council from Helsby Wells.

Dutton, Kingsley, Norley, Preston Brook and Sutton—by the Council from Liverpool (Vyrnwy) bulk supplies.

Frodsham, Manley, Antrobus and Whitley—by the Council from Warrington Corporation bulk supplies.

Stockton Heath, Grappenhall, Walton, Appleton, Stretton, Moore, and Daresbury—by Warrington Corporation.

Halton and Clifton—by Runcorn and District Water Board.

Aston and Norton—by private estate mains, the bulk supply being Liverpool (Vyrnwy).

Budworth—by the Council from Mid and South East Cheshire Water Board bulk supplies.

<i>Chemical Analyses</i>	<i>Helsby Well (no treatment) to Alvanley, Helsby</i>	<i>Warrington Harrol Edge to Frodsham, Manley,</i>	<i>Liverpool Vyrnwy to Aston, Dutton, Kingsley, Norley, Norton, Preston Brook, Sutton</i>	<i>Runcorn and District Water Board to Halton</i>	<i>Warrington Vyrnwy mixed to Stockton Heath Area and most other Parishes</i>	<i>Mid and South-East Cheshire Water Board to Budworth Village and Ball Lane, Kingsley</i>
Date	5.10.57	13.12.57	17.7.56	25.1.55	25.1.55	10.1.56
Appearance	Clear and Colourless	Clear and Colourless	Clear and Colourless	Clear and slight yellow	Clear and Slight Yellow	Clear and Colourless
Odour	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Reaction	pH 7.3	pH 7.0	pH 6.4	pH 6.6	pH 7.8	pH 7.3
<i>Parts per million</i>						
Total solids	280	195	65	76	68	230
Nitrogen as free and saline ammonia	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Nitrogen as albuminoid ammonia	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00
Nitrogen as nitrites	Nil	Very slight trace	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Nitrogen as nitrates	4.0	1.5	0.75	0.05	0.05	2.25
Chlorides as Cl.	44	35	9.5	8.7	9.1	26
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate in four hours at 27° C.	0.08	0.07	1.3	2.42	2.15	0.34
Total hardness	208	127	16	19.5	29.5	171
Temporary hardness	190	105	12	13.0	18	102
Permanent hardness	18	22	4	6.5	11.5	69
Alkalinity as CaCo ₃	190	105	12	13.0	18	102
Free chlorine	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Poisonous metals	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Bacteriological Examination:—						
Date	12.12.57	19.8.57	29.7.57	18.11.57	1.4.57	12.10.57
Probable number of coliform bacilli per 100 m.l.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
% of above faecal coli Report	Satisfactory	Satisfactory	Satisfactory	Satisfactory	Satisfactory	Satisfactory

Analyst's Opinion

Helsby 5.10.57—The chemical analysis of this water is satisfactory

Warrington Harrol Edge 13.12.57—The chemical analysis of this water is satisfactory.

Liverpool Vyrnwy 17.7.56.—The chemical analysis of this water is satisfactory.

Runcorn and District Water Board 25.1.55.—The chemical analysis of this water is satisfactory.

Warrington Vyrnwy mixed 25.1.55.— The chemical analysis of this water is satisfactory.

Mid and South-East Cheshire Water Board 10.1.56—The chemical analysis of this water is satisfactory.

(iv) Private water supplies are bacteriologically examined at least once per year. Where, as a result of such sampling, the supplies have been established as unsatisfactory, Notices advising that the water be boiled or chlorinated before drinking, dietetic and dairy purposes are sent and repeated quarterly to the owners and occupiers.

Where farms and farm cottages are concerned, the owners are strongly advised to obtain a mains supply with the assistance of the Cheshire Agricultural Committee under the Agricultural (Misc. Prov.) Act, 1944, Sec. 5.

There is a poor supply in several areas:—

Great Budworth, Whitley, Antrobus and Dutton, possibly arising out of the mains being too small for the work they now have to do. Scraping of the Dutton mains is under active consideration by the Surveyor.

Appleton Thorn Area.—This has been referred to the supplying Authority, Warrington Corporation.

Mains extensions were carried out for new housing development.

One house was connected to a mains supply.

(v)

Parish	(a) Public Water Mains				(b) Private Supplies					
	Direct to house		Standpipes		Private Water Mains		Wells and Springs			
							Good Quality		Suspicious or unsatisfactory Quality	
	Houses	Population	Houses	Population	Houses	Population	Houses	Population	Houses	Population
Alvanley.....	91	285	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	10
Antrobus.....	226	700	1	5	—	—	—	—	5	15
Appleton.....	1377	3476	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3
Aston.....	47	141	—	—	27	87	—	—	—	—
Budworth (Great).....	120	367	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Daresbury.....	86	269	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	5
Dutton.....	97	384	—	—	—	—	1	3	—	—
Frodsham.....	1773	5546	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	10
Grappenhall.....	1931	6044	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Halton.....	460	1439	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hatton.....	97	320	—	—	—	—	1	5	2	6
Helsby.....	972	3111	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kingsley.....	357	1361	11	33	—	—	2	8	4	11
Manley.....	154	659	—	—	—	—	1	3	—	—
Moore.....	179	568	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Norley.....	290	996	—	—	—	—	1	4	1	4
Norton.....	16	60	—	—	25	81	—	—	—	—
Preston Brook.....	132	393	—	—	1	4	—	—	3	9
Stockton Heath.....	2355	7505	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Stretton.....	153	499	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	7
Sutton.....	253	771	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Walton.....	523	1668	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whitley.....	181	586	3	9	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals.....	11870	37148	15	47	53	172	6	23	25	80

2. Drainage and Sewage

Kingsley and Norley.—The Ministry of Housing and Local Government held a local investigation. The outcome was that the scheme for Kingsley only was recommended at this stage. Details of such a scheme was forwarded to the Ministry.

Frodsham—Hares' Lane Pumping Station, an outline scheme was submitted to the Ministry and local investigation held. Approved in principle, further details now being required.

Other matters requiring attention in the future are:—

1. Helsby — new intercepting sewer and sewage disposal works extensions.
2. Great Budworth — sewers and sewage disposal works.
3. Stretton — sewage disposal improvements.
4. Acton Grange — works enlargements.
5. Moore — sewage disposal improvements.
6. Grappenhall, Stockport Road — sewers.

When septic tanks are installed it is important that *adequate filtration or subsoil irrigation* is provided to prevent pollution of watercourses and ditches. *In addition, the septic tanks should be maintained and desludged at regular intervals.* Many inspections have been carried out in connection with existing installations and in giving advice on new proposed works.

Four drainage systems of existing properties were connected to public sewers, one at Thelwall, one at Hatton, one at Appleton and one at Stretton.

3. Rivers and Streams

Pollution of ditches and streams remains a problem owing to the erection of new houses, improved sanitary appliances to existing houses and improved milk and dairy technique in parishes without sewers. Private owners are advised on the best type of septic tanks and filters for their property. Where such properties are in groups, the only final satisfactory solution is the provision of a sewer and sewage disposal works. Liquor from cowsheds presents a particularly difficult problem where it is not collected and returned to the land as manure.

The two cesspool emptying vehicles are used for desludging septic and settling tanks on Council and Private property, and for the collection of nightsoil. They adequately cover the needs of the District.

For private work the Council charge 15/- per hour with a minimum charge of 15/- and require the applicant to have the access covers of the tanks loosened and opened up in readiness. The charge for industrial and farm liquor tanks is 30/- per hour.

All owners of properties having septic tanks have been invited to make use of this service, either by separate orders or by continuing contracts.

Where plans are submitted to the Engineer and Surveyor

involving drainage systems not connected to a public sewer, the observations of this department have been sought on the efficiency of the proposed drainage disposal.

Pretreated effluents from two tanneries at Grappenhall are received into the Council's sewer which has improved the condition of the stream previously receiving the drainage, some pollution still occurs occasionally owing to the failure of the tannery plant to deal with all the effluent in the settling tanks.

The pollution of the non-tidal section of the Manchester Ship Canal continues, and causes objectionable odours after a prolonged period of warm weather (reported to the appropriate Rivers Board who have the matter under consideration).

4. Closet Accommodation

Seventeen conversions to the water carriage system were carried out (seven of these were included in Improvement Grants). Where this has been done voluntarily by the owners and is not part of an improvement grant, the Council has, when requested, paid a grant up to £15 provided that where a public sewer is not available, the owners will at their own expense connect to a public sewer when it becomes available.

5. Public Cleansing

This is carried out by the Engineer and Surveyor under direct labour. Disposal is by tipping and levelling with earthing over at intervals at two main tips and several smaller ones. Nuisance arises from flies, crickets and rat infestation, and to minimise this in the interests of public health and amenity *fully-controlled tipping is necessary*.

A tractor with mechanical shovel and bulldozing blade is used on the tips which much improves the control.

D.D.T. or Gammexane types of insecticide should also be used on tips as and when required, especially in warm weather.

The cesspool emptying vehicles are adapted for the collection of the contents of pail closets and enables the collection and disposal of the nightsoil by discharging into the sewers to be carried out with the minimum of nuisance.

6. Sanitary Inspection of the Area

The following tabular statement is furnished by the Senior Public Health Inspector under Article 27 (18) of the Sanitary Inspectors (Outside London) Regulations, 1935, or Article 19 of the Sanitary Officers Order, 1926:—

<i>Nature of Inspections</i>			<i>No. of Inspections</i>	<i>Informal Notices</i>	<i>Statutory Notices</i>
Dwelling Houses (Housing Acts)	....	....	275	13	37
Dwelling Houses (Rent Acts)	....	....	72	—	—
Dwelling Houses (Improvement Grants)	....	....	163	—	—
Dwelling Houses (No. of Inmates and queries re Council house applications)....	....	....	168	—	—
Dwelling Houses (Public Health Act)	....	....	356	60	3

Defects in the foregoing:

(a) Roofs, gutters and rain-water pipes	—	26	1
(b) Sanitary fittings	—	16	—
(c) Other defects	—	35	2
Schools	—	—	—
Movable Dwellings	122	9	—
Water Supplies (Samples)	41	—	—
(Other Inspections)	20	—	—
Closet Conversions	17	—	—
Cesspools and Septic Tanks	111	10	5
Sewer Connections	10	—	—
Sewers and Drains	416	16	4
Colour Tests	46	—	—
Ditches, Brooks	45	6	—
Refuse Collection and Disposal	65	—	—
Streets, Yards and Passages	4	2	—
Foul Accumulations	3	3	—
Tipping on Waste Land	76	41	—
Vermin (Rats and Mice)	344	8	—
(Insects)	49	—	—
Piggeries and keeping of animals	15	4	—
Dairies and Milk Retailers	9	—	—
Milk Samples	43	—	—
Factories and Workshops	21	2	—
Shops and Foodstores	277	57	—
Bakehouses	8	—	—
Food Inspection (Shops)	46	—	—
Slaughter Houses (Meat Inspection)	304	—	—
Canal Boats	—	—	—
Zymotic Inquiries	79	—	—
Visits to Contacts and Schools	61	—	—
Mortuaries	20	—	—
Petrol Stores	55	—	—
Hutted Camps	22	—	—
Miscellaneous	82	—	—
Health (Divisional matters, etc.)	2	—	—
Interviews with Builders, Owners and Agents	204	—	—
Ice-Cream Samples	25	—	—
Ice-Cream Premises	7	—	—
Smoke Abatement	36	—	—
TOTALS	3719	308	52

SHOPS

7. Shops Act, 1950.

No. employing persons	....	....	....	....	....	151
No. employing members of own family only				....	....	164
						<hr/> 315 <hr/>

8. Smoke Abatement

The Council remains a constituent Authority with the Manchester Regional Smoke Abatement Committee and makes a contribution to its fund for providing special Smoke Inspectors.

The Public Health Inspectors qualified as Smoke Inspectors during the year.

The Clean Air Act 1956 received Royal Assent and certain provisions came into operation on the last day of the year.

Preliminary inspections were made of most of the large furnaces in the district and the managements were advised of the requirements of the Clean Air Act.

The Council adopted the Model Byelaw that domestic appliances installed in new buildings shall be capable of burning smokeless fuel or otherwise capable of smokeless operation.

Its full implementation over the next few years should prevent much of the Smoke Pollution now experienced.

The problem of emission of the sulphur still remains to be solved (research, etc., by e.g. Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, etc.).

Action by the appropriate Government Departments in supplying smokeless fuels *at a reasonable cost*, etc., for the house, factory, etc., would go a long way in reducing the nuisance, in addition *proper stoking*.

- (i) Where there is *smoke*—there is fuel being wasted, and so Air Pollution with its nuisance and danger to health.
- (ii) Preventive Measures are available for No. (i) above.
- (iii) We are entitled to clean air in the same way as we have clean water etc.

The general public, owners of factories, etc., should be aware of this.

Noxious odours were occasionally noted in the district arising from certain large industrial works outside the district, when the wind is in a certain direction, fortunately not the prevailing wind. The

matter was referred to H.M. Alkali Inspector (Factory Inspector). Little nuisance was observed in 1956 and 1957, due to action by the latter, and pressure brought on the Company by the Runcorn Rural District Council.

9. Rats and Mice Destruction

The Senior Public Health Inspector acts as Rodent Officer—one full-time Rodent Operative is employed. The Council co-operates with the Cheshire Agricultural Executive Committee who carry out rodent destruction on agricultural premises.

Treatment was offered to industrial premises at a charge of cost of labour and materials. Some of these, schools, and one cooking depot, receive treatment as required on this basis—14 others preferred to enter into contracts as before. Dwelling houses receive free treatment unless the infestation is due to lack of hygiene or the unsatisfactory keeping of animals or poultry, in which case a charge is made. Warfarin with an oatmeal base was used with satisfactory results.

Some 1,225 properties were inspected and of these 570 were treated.

The Council has 17 tips, sewage outfalls and properties which receive treatment as required. The sewer systems in Appleton, Daresbury, Frodsham, Grappenhall, Halton, Hatton, Helsby, Moore, Stockton Heath, Sutton and Walton, were test baited and infestation was found in Frodsham, Halton, Hatton, Stockton Heath, Stretton and Walton, to a limited degree. The infested portions received two maintenance treatments.

10. FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948
Home Office Form 572 (Revised)

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health, including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors :

<i>Premises</i>	<i>Number on Register</i>	<i>Inspec- tions</i>	<i>Written notices</i>	<i>Occupiers Prosecuted</i>
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	28	10	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	83	12	2	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	29	7	—	—
TOTAL	140	29	2	—

2. Cases in which defects were found

<i>Particulars</i>	<i>Number of cases in which defects were found</i>			<i>Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted</i>
	<i>Found</i>	<i>Remedied</i>	<i>Referred to H.M. Inspector</i> <i>by H.M. Inspector</i>	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1.)	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)				
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	3	3	—	2
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the act (not including offences relating to Outworkers)...	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	3	3	—	2

All factories are entered in the register kept for the purpose. Number of Outworkers—13, employed in the making of wearing apparel and curtains. No action taken during the year.

11. Swimming Baths

There are no Public Swimming Baths in the District.

12. Movable Dwellings

Close supervision was maintained on camping sites and individual movable dwellings.

In addition to licences under the Public Health Act, movable dwellings require approval under the Town and Country Planning Act, 1947, which gives better control as regards amenity to the district than the Public Health Act. The Council have adopted the recommendations of the County Planning Officer on new camping sites which include the following:

“The use of the said property as a camping ground shall mean its use as pitches for:—

(i) tents covering an area not exceeding 100 sq. ft, each, or

(ii) caravans on wheels specially built for use as living accommodation and maintained in a fit state to be drawn or propelled on their own wheels on the public highway. No railway carriage, tram-car, omnibus body or other similar article, whether on wheels or not and howsoever adapted, shall be permitted to be stationed or erected on the said property.”

Many of the movable dwellings have had various unauthorised hut additions added, and measures were continued to have these removed or reduced to a modest size. Some progress has been made on these lines and some of the old fixed type huts and bus bodies have been removed.

The Council decided they would permit per caravan only one movable independent shed of up to 6ft. × 4ft. by 6ft. high (excluding closet accommodation) of good and neat construction.

N.B. It is recommended that special attention is given to *overcrowding* in “caravans” etc., also whether structurally they are fit for human habitation. *The appropriate Ministry should strengthen the Byelaws on the subject.* The Housing Act 1957 and the Public Health Act 1936 should be applied as required and where applicable.

CAMPING SITES

Number of licences in operation, Public Health Act, 1936, Section 269:—

	<i>Year of 1957</i>
(a) For Camping Sites	19
(b) For fixed type dwellings sited on above Camping Sites	6
(c) For other individual movable dwellings	52
Estimated maximum number of Campers resident in the area at one time, during the summer season, 1957	740

13. Insect Pests

No houses were found to be infested with bed bugs.

Other infestations dealt with were ants, wasps' nests, cock-roaches and house flies.

14. Schools

The County Medical Officer of Health, Cheshire, has reported on schools (in and outside) direct to the Director of Education, C.C.C. Some schools require urgent attention.

15. Mortuaries

The mortuaries controlled by the Council at Frodsham and Stockton Heath are in a satisfactory condition.

SECTION D—HOUSING

1. New Houses brought into the Rate Book in 1957

Number of new houses erected by Local Authority and brought into the Rate Book	....	....	....	....	54
Number of new houses erected by other bodies and persons and brought into the Rate Book	....	....	....	....	243
					<hr/>
Total	....	....	....	....	297
					<hr/>

Parishes	New houses brought into the Rate Book 1957			No. of inhabited houses in Rural	
	Total per Parish			District 31st Dec.	
	Private	Local Authority			
Alvanley	1	—			94
Antrobus	1	6			232
Appleton	17	31			1378
Aston	2	—			74
Budworth (Great)	1	—			120
Daresbury	5	—			88
Dutton	—	—			98
Frodsham	52	7			1775
Grappenhall	89	—			1931
Halton	—	—			460
Hatton	—	—			100
Helsby	29	—			972
Kingsley	2	—			374
Manley	—	—			155
Moore	2	—			179
Norley	2	—			292
Norton	—	—			41
Preston Brook	1	—			136
Stockton Heath	26	—			2355
Stretton	2	8			155
Sutton	5	12			253
Walton	4	—			523
Whitley	2	—			184
TOTALS	243	54			11969

2. Housing

Work on the detailed inspection of Clearance Areas under the 5 year scheme was completed and submitted to the Ministry. A Public Enquiry was arranged for early in 1958.

The table set out opposite shows the progress made up to the end of the year.

Several owners of unfit houses have voluntarily undertaken not to relet the houses in their existing condition, once they are vacated, and subsequently to either demolish or recondition them to the Council's satisfaction.

Improvement grants were made for 27 houses, most of which were owner/occupied.

Many other houses have been inspected and the owners interviewed with regard to proposed applications for such grants. 58 reports on these preliminary inspections of properties were passed on to the Engineer & Surveyor who deals with the detailed applications and specifications.

Rent Act, 1954

Three Certificates of Disrepair issued under the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, were revoked.

Rent Act, 1957

Particulars of applications for Certificates of Disrepair under the above Act are as follows:—

PART I

Applications for Certificates of Disrepair

1.	No. of applications for certificates....	....	....	....	20
2.	No. of decisions not to issue certificates	....	....	....	2
3.	No. of decisions to issue certificates:—				
	(a) in respect of some but not all defects	....	....	....	6
	(b) in respect of all defects	....	....	....	12
4.	No. of undertakings given by landlords under paragraph 5 of the First Schedule....	....	....	....	4
5.	No. of undertakings refused by Local Authority under proviso to paragraph 5 of the First Schedule	....	....	....	—
6.	No. of certificates issued	....	....	....	14

PART II

Applications for Cancellation of Certificates

7.	Application by landlords to Local Authority for cancellation of certificates	....	....	....	nil
8.	Objections by tenants to cancellation of certificates	....	....	....	nil
9.	Decisions by Local Authority to cancel in spite of tenants' Objection	....	....	....	nil
10.	Certificates cancelled by Local Authority	....	....	....	nil

ANALYSIS OF UNFIT HOUSES
FROM 1st SEPTEMBER, 1954, TO 31st DECEMBER, 1957

Parish	No. of Houses	Demolished	Vacant		Demolition Order or Agreement not to re-let but still occupied	Recon- ditioned or Improvements commenced	Clearance Areas
			Agreement not to re-let	Demolition Order			
Alvanley	2	-	1	-	1	-	-
Antrobus	6	-	2	-	3	1	-
Appleton	12	-	1	-	-	-	10
Aston	9	-	4	-	3	2	-
Budworth (Great)	7	3	-	-	3	1	-
Daresbury	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dutton	6	-	-	-	4	-	-
Frodsham	107	10	14	13	13	7	41
Grappenhall	20	9	5	1	3	2	-
Halton	3	-	2	1	-	-	-
Helsby	23	2	-	-	6	2	11
Hatton	6	-	-	1	5	-	-
Kingsley	26	3	7	-	8	3	-
Manley	1	-	1	-	-	1	-
Moore	4	-	-	-	4	-	-
Norley	6	1	-	-	4	-	-
Norton	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Preston Brook	2	-	2	-	-	-	-
Stockton Heath	14	8	5	-	1	-	-
Stretton	11	1	2	3	4	1	-
Sutton	10	-	2	4	4	-	-
Walton	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whitley	17	-	2	4	6	1	-
Totals	292	37	50	27	72	21	62

CLEARANCE AREAS AND INDIVIDUAL UNFIT HOUSES **YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1957**

Part A — Clearance Areas (Housing Act, 1957) — Nil.

Part B — Houses not included in Clearance Areas:

	<i>Houses</i>	<i>Number of Persons displaced</i>	<i>Families</i>
DEMOLITION AND CLOSING ORDERS			
(1) Housing Act, 1957			
(a) Houses demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 17	15	15	9
(b) Houses closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by the owners under Section 17, and still in force	23	58	20
(c) Parts of buildings closed (Section 18)	—	—	—

		Number of Houses*
REPAIRS		
	Informal Action	
(2)	Number of unfit or defective houses rendered fit during the period as a result of informal action by the local authority under the Public Health or Housing Acts	35
	Action under Statutory Powers	
(3)	Public Health Acts	
	Number of houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices	
(a)	by owners	0
(b)	by local authority in default of owners	0
(4)	Housing Act, 1957	
	Number of houses made fit after service of formal notices (Sections 9, 16 and 24)	
(a)	by owners	0
(b)	by local authority in default of owners	0

Note: *A defective house remedied more than once during the period should be included once only.

3. Emergency Accommodation

All requisitioned properties have now been released.

Red Brow Camp, Preston Brook, is in the process of being demolished.

4. Housing Act, 1957—Part IV—Overcrowding

	1956	1957
(a) i. Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	7	3
ii. Number of families dwelling therein	10	3
iii. Number of persons dwelling therein	53	27
(b) i. Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	3	—
(c) i. Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	6	4
ii. Number of persons concerned in such cases	34	27
(d) i. Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have become overcrowded after the Local Authority has taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	Nil	Nil

SECTION E

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

1. Milk and Dairies

Numbers on the registers are:—

Dairies	2
Distributors	34
Dealers	14
Supplementary	7

Samples taken were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Birkenhead, and comprise the following:—

	No. of samples	No. of samples unsatisfactory
Methylene Blue (keeping quality raw milks)	39	—
Phosphatase (Heat Treated Pasteurised Milks)	24	—
Turbidity (Heat Treated Sterilised Milks)	6	—
Of these samples number biological examination for the presence of Tubercle Bacilli	6	—
Number found to contain Tubercle Bacilli	—	—

2. Food Premises in Area

Grocer	....	....	....	....	....	56
Grocer and General Stores				....	....	41
Greengrocer	....	....	....	....	....	18
Sweets....	....	....	....	....	....	31
Butcher	....	....	....	....	....	20
Chemist	....	....	....	....	....	7
Fish and Chips	....	....	....	....	....	7
Wet Fish	....	....	....	....	....	4
Tripe	....	....	....	....	....	1
Cooked Meats	....	....	....	....	....	1
Cafe	....	....	....	....	....	12
Cafe with Shop	....	....	....	....	....	11
Licensed premises with Catering	....	....	....	....	....	23
Confectioners }						
Baker	....	....	....	....	....	14
						<hr/> 246 <hr/>

Number of Food premises registered under Section 16, of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955:—

Ice-Cream —Sale only	....	....	....	....	91
Manufacture Hot Mix	....	....	....	....	1
Manufacture Cold Mix	....	....	....	....	2
				TOTAL....	<hr/> 94 <hr/>
Preserved Foods —Jam Factory	....	....	....	....	1
Sausage and Cooked Meats					21
Meat Pies	....	....	....	....	11
Fish and Chips	....	....	....	....	7
				TOTAL	<hr/> 40 <hr/>

140 Inspections were made at Registered premises.

No special educational activity was undertaken, such as, clean food guilds or lectures on food hygiene, but advice is given as and when required in the course of inspections.

3. Ice-cream

The hygiene of premises and personnel was satisfactory. Manufacture is only on a small scale one by hot mix and two by cold mix. All other registrations are for sale only.

Samples were taken which were graded as follows:—

Ice-Cream—Grade 1	....	....	....	20
Grade 2	....	....	....	0
Grade 3	....	....	....	0
Grade 4	....	....	....	0
Ice Lollies—Satisfactory	....	....	....	5

4. Meat and Other Foods

The Public Health Inspectors act as Meat Inspectors.

During the year visits made in respect of Meat and Food Inspections were 46 in shops and 304 in slaughterhouses.

No Meat Marketing Scheme under Part III of the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, is in force in this district.

Three slaughterhouses are licensed, of which two are in regular use.

The quantity of food condemned in shops and canteens during the year was:—

					lbs.
Canned Meat	....	....	....	....	191
Canned Poultry	....	....	....	....	4
Canned Fruit....	....	....	....	....	185
Canned Vegetables	....	....	....	....	29
Canned Fish ....	....	....	....	....	3
Canned Soup....	....	....	....	....	8
Cheese	....	....	....	....	16
Beef ....	....	....	....	....	232
Milk ....	....	....	....	....	16
Pickles	....	....	....	....	3
Peanut Butter	....	....	....	....	2
Dates ....	....	....	....	....	5
Cake Mix	....	....	....	....	3
TOTAL					697

Carcases inspected and carcasses or parts condemned:

	<i>Cattle exclud- ing Cows</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Cows slaughtered as reactors or under T.B. Order</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>	<i>Horses</i>
Number killed	290	27	8	30	1217	176	—
Number inspected	290	27	8	30	1217	176	—
All diseases except tuberculosis. Whole carcasses condemned	—	1	—	2	4	2	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	17	5	—	—	3	8	—
Percentage of the No. inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	5.86%	22.22%	0.00%	6.66%	0.5%	5.68%	0.00%
Tuberculosis only. Whole carcasses condemned	2	1	6	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	11	1	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the No. inspected affected with tuberculosis	4.48%	7.40%	75%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
CYSTICERCOSIS Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised & totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Meat and Edible Offals Condemned

The amount of meat and edible offals condemned was:—

For tuberculosis	1739 lbs.
For tuberculosis under T.B. Order....	3630 lbs.
For other causes	1219 lbs.

Condemned Food Disposal

Meat and other foods are stained with a green dye and disposed of by burying deep in the Council's Refuse Tips.

5. Adulteration, etc. Food and Drugs Adulteration Act

I am indebted to the Chief Inspector of the Cheshire County Council for the following report of the work carried out by his department in the Runcorn Rural District under the Food and Drugs Act during the year 1957.

Samples obtained during the year ended 31st December, 1957.

<i>Name of Sample</i>	<i>No. obtained</i>	<i>Number adulterated or not up to the recognised standard of quality</i>
Butter	1	—
Boric Acid Treatment....	1	—
Bread	1	1
Black Currant Cordial	1	—
Coffee	2	—
Camphorated Oil	1	—
Cod Liver Oil	1	—
Celery Soup	1	—
Cornflour	1	—
Desiccated Coconut	2	—
Cake Mixture	1	—
Cream	2	—
Drambuie	1	1
Flour	2	—
Fish Paste	1	—
Glycerine	1	—
Iodine Paint	1	—
Ice Cream	2	—
Jam	3	—
Milk	50	13
Milk Condensed	1	—
Margarine	1	—
Orange Squash	2	1
Olive Oil	1	—
Prunes	1	—
Raisins	1	—
Rum	1	—
Steak and Kidney Paste	1	—
Sponge Mixture	1	—
Salmon Spread	1	—
Sweets	2	—
Strawberries	1	—
Zinc Ointment	1	—
	<hr/> 91	<hr/> 16

Particulars of Non-Standard Samples

	<i>Sample</i>			<i>Result of Analysis</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
1. Bread	Contaminated with oil and iron combined with fatty acid.	Manufacturers cautioned. Loaf purchased by housewife who noticed dark stain. On investigation it was found that a chain in the improver had caused contamination.
2. Drambuie	Contains 8.5% extraneous water or 36 degrees under proof.	As a result of a complaint this informal sample was purchased at an Inn ostensibly for consumption on the premises but was actually taken away and analysed. Some weeks later (near Christmas) arrangements were made to purchase a formal sample but this proved to be genuine. Further tests will be made in the future.
3. Milk	Genuine but abnormal milk 2.3% deficient in Solids-not-fat.	No action.
4. Milk	2.3% do.	No action.
5. Milk	1.1% do.	No action.
6. Milk	2.3% do.	No action.
7. Milk	3.5% do.	No action.
8. Milk	1.1% do.	No action.
9. Milk	2.3% do.	No action.
10. Milk	53.3% deficient in milk-fat.	Retail sale. (See "Appeal to Cow") samples Nos. 11, 12, 13 and 14. Attention of producer drawn to poor quality of milk but no legal action was possible as the milk was sold in the same condition as given by the cows.

<i>Sample</i>		<i>Result of Analysis</i>		<i>Remarks</i>
11.	Milk "Appeal to Cow"	....	53.3% deficient in milk-fat.	} Appeal to cows samples in respect of samples No. 10. Two other "Appeal" samples were genuine
12.	Milk "Appeal to Cow"	....	20.0% do.	
13.	Milk "Appeal to Cow"	....	16.6% do.	
14.	Milk "Appeal to Cow"	....	16.6% do.	
15.	Milk (Channel Islands)	....	7.5% do.	} Producer Cautioned.

6. Shell-Fish (Molluscan)

There are no Shell-fish beds in the area. Shell-fish are on sale regularly in the district. If Shell-fish, Mussels or Shrimps are eaten locally, they should be well cooked and should come from Government-controlled beds.

7. Watercress

Only that as grown on properly controlled beds with a pure water supply and labelled should be sold and bought, otherwise there is a danger of intestinal disease spreading.

SECTION F

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

The prevailing varieties of notifiable disease during the year were mainly confined to Measles and Whooping Cough.

1. Immunisation and Vaccination

Combined Diphtheria-Whooping Cough-Tetanus vaccine can now be given to infants at an early age (approx. 3 months) the results have been very good. This can be obtained free of charge by the patient's own Doctor; *I strongly recommend this.*

2. Diphtheria Immunisation

The *free scheme* is still available so that parents and guardians may have their children *properly* immunised against the deadly disease diphtheria.

All children one to fifteen years of age (*preferably* between the *sixth and ninth months*) should be properly immunised against diphtheria by two injections; in addition, a "booster" dose (one) is required in five years' time. This can be obtained *free of cost* through the parents' or guardians' own Doctor in the Surgery; also at Welfare Centres and Day Nurseries. Special Clinics are organised at schools as required. Application should be made at the Welfare Centres, Day Nurseries, Schools, or to the Public Health Department (Divisional).

Propaganda on the above has been *continuously* carried out aided by the Press and the Central Council for Health Education, etc, but still some children are found to have not been immunised.

Parents or guardians should face up to their responsibilities and have their children properly immunised at once:

“PREVENTION IS BETTER THAN CURE.”

Further research is required into the “carrier” state of many diseases with a view to providing a cure for these, but preventive measures, e.g., Diphtheria and Whooping Cough Immunisation, Smallpox Vaccination, Inoculation against Typhoid Fever and other diseases will be necessary for many years where these diseases are likely to occur, or are prevalent; in addition proper hygiene and sanitation are essential.

As already recommended (via the Press, etc.), children should be vaccinated against Smallpox soon after birth, given Whooping Cough vaccine when about 3 months old and immunised against Diphtheria at about 8 months old.

Reference is made to B.C.G. vaccination against Tuberculosis in Appendix “A”.

3. Vaccination against Poliomyelitis

This is referred to in my Divisional Health Report attached. The scheme will be extended in 1958, and is strongly recommended to all concerned.

4. Care of the Blind

The welfare of Blind Persons was dealt with by the County Medical Officer of Health, Cheshire, under the provisions of the appropriate Act, working in conjunction with the Blind Welfare Societies, up to 5th July, 1948, and after this the same care continued under Section 28 of the National Health Service Act, 1946 (Divisional Health Committee.)

5. Mental Deficiency and Special Schools for Defective Children

This was dealt with as required by the County Medical Officer of Health, Cheshire, and the appropriate Departments, etc., up to 5th July, 1948; after this further developments were carried out under the appropriate Acts.

6. Ophthalmia Neonatorum

Cases of this disease are notified immediately to the County and local Divisional Medical Officer of Health.

7. Prevention of Disease from Abroad

The Government under the appropriate Acts has a system of medical examination, etc., for those persons arriving in this country from abroad who have been in areas where serious infectious disease has occurred. All contacts are medically examined, given written and verbal instructions what to do if they feel ill, and the local Medical Officer of Health is notified of their arrival and he arranges for the necessary supervision. With the outbreaks of the serious

type of smallpox abroad, it is again strongly recommended that all infants and others should be properly vaccinated according to the law on the subject; this can be carried out free of charge through the patient's own doctor.

8. Infectious and Other Notifiable Diseases, 1957

Disease	Age Groups of Cases Notified									Total
	Un- der 1	1 to 2	3 to 4	5 to 9	10 to 14	15 to 24	25 to 44	45 to 64	65 and over	
Scarlet Fever	—	1	5	10	4	—	—	—	—	20
Measles	19	162	188	473	21	3	1	—	—	867
Whooping Cough	1	7	13	21	1	2	—	—	—	45
Pneumonia	—	—	—	1	1	1	4	2	4	13
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Anterio Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
TOTALS	21	170	206	506	27	6	7	2	4	949

The most prevalent diseases were Measles and Whooping Cough.

Tuberculosis notifications are given in a separate section of the report.

The Chester and District Hospital Management Committee have informed all general practitioners that they would be responsible for the supply of diphtheria antitoxin (free)—in emergency at the Runcorn Victoria Memorial Hospital (the Matron). In addition it can be obtained at any general hospital. Supplies can also be obtained (in emergency) from any infectious disease hospital, e.g., Warrington and Davenham.

Practitioners may, if they wish, obtain a small stock from a hospital in anticipation of requirements rather than wait until they need it for a particular case. (N.B.)

Stocks held by hospitals or practitioners should be returned three months before expiry date for exchange to the source of supply.

In few diseases is prompt treatment as necessary as in diphtheria:

N.B. Antitoxin should be given in all suspicious cases at once, in the home or in the hospital. SWABBING IS ONLY AN AID TO DIAGNOSIS.

Swabs are examined at the Public Health Laboratory, Birkenhead—in addition, as required, the laboratories at Chester and Warrington, free of charge (*this applies to all examinations carried out in the interests of Public Health*).

9. Causes of Death at different Periods of Life during the year 1957:

Cause of Death	AGE GROUP AND SEX												TOTALS ALL AGE GROUPS					
	Under 1 year		1 to 4 years		5 to 14 years		15 to 24 years		25 to 44 years		45 to 64 years				65 to 74 years		75 years and over	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F		
Tuberculosis: Respiratory	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	
Tuberculosis: Other forms	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Syphilitic Disease	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Diphtheria: Meningococcal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Meningococcal Infections	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Measles	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Malignant Neoplasm: Stomach	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Malignant Neoplasm: Lungs, Bronchus	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Malignant Neoplasm: Breast	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Malignant Neoplasm: Uterus	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Leukaemia; Aleukaemia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Diabetes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Vascular lesions of nervous system	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Coronary Disease Angina	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Hypertension with Heart Disease	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Other Heart Diseases	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Other Circulatory Disease	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Influenza	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Pneumonia	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Bronchitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Other Respiratory Diseases	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Nephritis and Nephrosis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Hyperplasia of Prostate	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Pregnancy: Childbirth, abortions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Congenital Malformations	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Motor Vehicle Accidents	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
All other Accidents	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Suicide	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Homicide and Operations of War	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
ALL CAUSES	5	2	1	2	-	-	3	-	8	7	53	41	61	53	93	117	224	222

					<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
Deaths of Infants under 1 year	{	Total	....	....	5	2
		Legitimate	....	....	5	2
		Illegitimate	....	....	—	—
Live Births	{	Total	....	....	306	277
		Legitimate	....	....	296	268
		Illegitimate	....	....	10	9
Stillbirths	{	Total	....	....	4	3
		Legitimate	....	....	4	3
		Illegitimate	....	....	—	—

POPULATION.....37,470 (estimated mid-year Home Population)
 Comparability Factors.....Births 1.04; Deaths 0.98

**BIRTH RATES, DEATH RATES, ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY,
 MATERNAL MORTALITY AND CASE RATES FOR
 CERTAIN INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN THE YEAR 1957**
 Provisional figures based on Quarterly Returns

							<i>Runcorn Rural District</i>	<i>England and Wales</i>
							<i>Rates per 1,000 Home Population</i>	
BIRTHS—								
Live births	....	....	....	....	....	....	15.55	16.1
Stillbirths	....	....	....	....	....	....	11.86	22.4
DEATHS—								
All causes	....	....	....	....	....	....	11.90	11.5
NOTIFICATIONS (corrected)—								
Typhoid Fever	....	....	....	....	....	....	0.00	0.00
Paratyphoid Fever	....	....	....	....	....	....	0.00	0.01
Meningococcal Infection	....	....	....	....	....	....	0.00	0.02
Scarlet Fever	....	....	....	....	....	....	0.53	0.65
Whooping Cough	....	....	....	....	....	....	1.20	1.91
Diphtheria	....	....	....	....	....	....	0.00	0.00
Erysipelas	....	....	....	....	....	....	0.00	0.07
Smallpox	....	....	....	....	....	....	0.00	0.00
Measles	....	....	....	....	....	....	23.13	14.11
Pneumonia	....	....	....	....	....	....	0.34	0.72
Acute Poliomyelitis (including Polioencephalitis)								
Paralytic	....	....	....	....	....	....	0.02	0.07
Non-paralytic	....	....	....	....	....	....	0.00	0.03
Food Poisoning	....	....	....	....	....	....	0.02	0.20
Puerperal Pyrexia	....	....	....	....	....	....	0.02	16.01(a)
							<i>Rates per 1,000 Live Births</i>	
DEATHS—								
All causes under 1 year of age	....	....	....	....	....	....	12.00	23.0

(a) Per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births

10. Tuberculosis

No person employed in the milk trade was found suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis, nor was it found necessary compulsorily to remove to hospital any person suffering from Tuberculosis.

For the prevention of this disease, the following precautions should be noted:—

A properly balanced diet, in addition early diagnosis (X-ray, etc.), proper treatment, *thorough* disinfection of homes when cases go to a sanatorium, separate rooms and utensils, frequent visits by Health Visitors, and as required by the Medical Officer of Health and Public Health Inspectors. All new cases are specially investigated by me and reported to me as Divisional Medical Officer of Health (as required to H.M. Inspector of Factories). Close liaison is kept with the Chest Physicians. Follow-up of contacts and the patients by the Health Visitor is carried out very thoroughly and action taken as required by myself and the Chest Physician (Divisional Health). The Mass X-ray Units are proving useful in detecting early cases of Tuberculosis, etc. “Specified” areas are increasing in which only heat-treated or tuberculin-tested milk can be sold; this is important.

Medical Officers in charge of industrial hygiene, etc., factory inspectors, form a valuable liaison in preventing and ascertaining the cause of tuberculosis (e.g., dust, working conditions, disinfections, cleanliness, etc.). The Public Health Act, 1936 (Section 287) proves useful to the Medical Officer of Health (and Public Health Inspectors) allowing power of entry to any premises for the general purpose of the Act, in conjunction with those concerned.

In my opinion, all milk, especially for children, should be properly heat-treated (e.g., pasteurised or sterilised); failing this, heat-treated in the home.

With proper veterinary control of cattle, proper housing conditions and food for the people, these, with heat-treatment of milk (e.g., pasteurisation, etc., or proper heat-treatment in the home), will help to stamp out this terrible disease. Proper heat-treatment of milk not only kills tubercle bacillus but other germs causing disease.

A thorough disinfection (steam, etc.) of the house, clothing, etc. with a *thorough* “spring-clean” of the house when a case is admitted to hospital, *is essential*. Isolation of contacts (*especially* children) is most essential and every endeavour is made to do this. B.C.G. injections are given by the Chest Physician in suitable cases. Chalets,

extra beds and bedding are supplied as and when required, via the Divisional Health Department.

Particulars of the 25 new cases of tuberculosis and of the 3 deaths from the disease in the area during 1957:—

<i>Age Periods</i>	<i>New Cases</i>				<i>Deaths</i>			
	<i>Respiratory</i>		<i>Non-Respiratory</i>		<i>Respiratory</i>		<i>Non-Respiratory</i>	
	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
0-1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-4	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
4-14	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
15-24	—	3(2)	—	—	—	—	—	—
25-34	4(1)	3(3)	—	1	—	—	—	—
35-44	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
45-54	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55-64	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 upwards	2	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
TOTALS	8	14	1	2	2	1	—	—

None of the deaths were notified cases

Figures in brackets relate to cases transferred from another district

Specimens of sputum from suspected Pulmonary Tuberculosis patients are examined at the Public Health Laboratory, Birkenhead, also Warrington and Chester Royal Infirmary laboratories.

Tuberculosis cases on register. Comparative rates:—

<i>Year</i>	<i>Estimated Population</i>	<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>		<i>Total all Forms</i>	<i>No. per 1,000 of Population</i>
		<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>		
1947	32,930	60	42	29	32	163	4.95
1948	34,230	59	44	28	33	164	4.79
1949	34,550	62	37	31	34	164	4.74
1950	35,580	74	48	29	35	186	5.22
1951	35,510	79	55	25	34	193	5.43
1952	35,520	89	61	29	33	212	5.97
1953	35,800	93	67	27	30	217	6.06
1954	36,260	86	68	22	23	199	5.48
1955	36,810	91	63	20	20	194	5.02
1956	37,080	101	69	19	22	211	5.69
1957	37,470	104	79	17	22	222	5.92

11. Cancer Research

During the year there were 90 deaths recorded from cancer as compared with 74 in 1956. These figures were equivalent to 2.00 and 2.40 per 1,000 of the population respectively.

12. Details of Cancer Deaths over the Past Five Years

Year	Site	1-14	15-44	45-64	65-74	75 and over	Rate per 1,000 population	Total all ages	
								M.	F.
1953	Stomach	—	—	5	6	1	1.67	10	2
	Lungs, Bronchus	—	1	5	4	1		8	3
	Other Sites	—	2	13	7	15		20	17
1954	Stomach	—	1	2	5	7	1.62	9	6
	Lungs, Bronchus	—	1	4	—	—		5	—
	Other Sites	—	5	11	12	11		19	20
1955	Stomach	—	—	1	3	4	1.60	4	4
	Lungs, Bronchus	—	3	4	1	2		8	2
	Other Sites	—	2	15	17	7		17	24
1956	Stomach	—	—	—	5	8	2.00	2	11
	Lungs, Bronchus	—	—	10	5	2		14	3
	Other Sites	—	1	14	14	15		26	18
1957	Stomach	—	—	3	6	7	2.40	11	5
	Lungs, Bronchus	—	1	5	5	2		11	2
	Other Sites	—	—	20	21	20		25	36

Under Section 76 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, Sections 1, 2 and 6 and sub-sections (2) and (3) of Section 8 of the Cancer Act, 1939, were repealed and the responsibility for the provision of an adequate cancer service was placed on the Minister and Regional Hospital Boards by Part II of the National Health Service Act of 1946.

Facilities for cancer diagnosis and treatment are available in all major general hospitals in the area and the radiotherapeutic work in the region is centred at the Liverpool Radium Institute. Follow-up clinics are undertaken at the Chester Royal Infirmary.

The areas of the Runcorn Rural District Council and the Runcorn Urban District Council are within the area of the Liverpool Regional Hospital Board.

ANNUAL REPORT OF CANAL BOAT INSPECTOR 1957

In accordance with Section 249 (3) of the Public Health Act, 1936, I beg to report as follows:—

No canal boats were inspected during the year 1957.

Several visits were made to the canals, but as reported in recent years road transport has superseded canal transport, as regards wharves in this district. A few boats continue to pass through the district.

CHESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

RUNCORN DIVISIONAL HEALTH COMMITTEE

REPORT
FOR THE YEAR
1957

By the

DIVISIONAL MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Presented to the
Runcorn Divisional Health Committee
15th April, 1958

MEMBERS OF THE RUNCORN DIVISIONAL HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman:

COUNCILLOR H. JACKSON

Deputy Chairman:

COUNCILLOR T. B. SHALLCROSS

Representatives of Local Health Authority

County Alderman G. ASTBURY,	Chairman, County Health Committee
„ Councillor A. WHITLEY,	Vice-Chairman, County Health Committee
Alderman W. GITTINS,	
County Councillor H. MANN	
„ „ A. E. MOORS	
„ „ R. E. PAYTON	
„ „ Miss M. J. PREECE	

Runcorn Rural District Council Representatives

Councillor D. L. Davies	Councillor T. L. Looker
„ Mrs K. I. Dewes	(died 27th October 1957)
„ Mrs T. A. Glover	Councillor Mrs E. Stansfield
„ J. Hunt	„ G. S. Wallworth
„ J. W. Kirkham	„ Mrs I. J. Wallis

Runcorn Urban District Council Representatives

Councillor H. Goodall	Councillor T. H. Leather
„ C. J. Helsby	„ T. J. Lloyd
„ S. Holt	„ J. G. Potts

Co-opted Members

Dr. E. R. CARTER, Local Medical Committee for the County Palatine of Chester

Dr. E. WARDLE, National Health Service, Local Dental Committee

Miss T. E. DUDLEY, Cheshire County Nursing Association

Councillor J. TILDSLEY, Runcorn Divisional Executive for Education

Councillor W. H. STUBBS, Chester & District Hospital Management Committee

Mrs. C. EVANS

Mrs E. A. ROYLE

Mr J. D. WHITLEY

Officers

Clerk to the Committee: Mr. T. J. Lewis

Divisional Medical Officer: E. N. Hillman Gray, L.R.C.P. & S., L.M., D.P.H.,
F.R.S.H.

**CHESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
RUNCORN DIVISIONAL HEALTH COMMITTEE**

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
DIVISIONAL MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1957**

INTRODUCTION

**TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
RUNCORN DIVISIONAL HEALTH COMMITTEE**

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen:

I have the honour to present this my Annual Report dealing with those portions of the Sections of Part III of the National Health Act, 1946, for which this Committee is responsible.

As in previous years the report is sub-divided into the various sections of the Act and gives details of the work carried out during the year.

The Welfare Centres in the Division were well attended, and at the Day Nursery there was an increase of one in the average daily attendance, as compared with the previous year.

The ambulance service operated smoothly during the year, and further reductions were made in the number of journeys and the mileage.

Every effort was again made to give publicity to the need for vaccination against smallpox and immunisation against diphtheria and whooping cough.

Vaccination against Poliomyelitis continued during the year and all the children who were registered for vaccination in March 1956 were given appointments for vaccination. Arrangements were also made during the year for the registration of children born in 1955 and 1956.

The scheme of B.C.G. Vaccination was continued during the year, and it is pleasing to note that 80% of parents consented to their children being vaccinated.

The demand on the domestic help service continued to increase, particularly on account of the number of aged persons requiring the services of a domestic help whose need for help continues indefinitely. In view of the demand on the Hospital Authorities for admission of chronic sick patients to hospital, this service is most valuable in helping to look after the old people in their homes for as long as is possible. During part of the year there was a shortage of domestic helps to attend cases, particularly in the Grappenhall area, but during the last few weeks the position improved.

My thanks are due to the Chairman and Members of the Divisional Health Committee for their support and help to me on all occasions.

The co-operation and assistance of the County Medical Officer and his staff, the Clerk to the Divisional Health Committee, and also the staff in my Divisional Health Office, Matron, Day Nursery (Mrs. E. Jones, S.R.N.), Health Visitors; District Nurses; Midwives, local General Practitioners (Urban and Rural); Dr. L. Hughes, S.A.M.O. (Liverpool Regional Hospital Board); and the Ambulance Supervisor, has been *greatly appreciated* by me in the carrying out of my various duties since the Divisional Scheme came into being in 1948.

I beg to remain,

Your obedient Servant,

*Divisional Health Office,
36 Halton Road, Runcorn.
March, 1958.*

E. N. HILLMAN GRAY

SECTION 22

CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN

There are seven Child Welfare Centres in the Division, three of which are held in County-owned premises (Runcorn, Frodsham and Stockton Heath) and four of which are held in premises rented by the County Council for the actual Sessions (Grappenhall, Helsby, Kingsley and Weston Point).

The Infant Welfare Centres are as follows:—

Frodsham	Welfare Centre, The Rock	Alternate Tuesdays at 2 p.m.
Grappenhall	Methodist Sunday School	Tuesdays at 2 p.m.
Helsby	British Insulated Callenders' Cables Works Recreation Room	Alternate Tuesdays at 2 p.m.
Kingsley	Hurst Chapel	Second and Fourth Wednesdays at 2 p.m.
Runcorn	Welfare Centre Halton Road	Wednesdays 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.
Stockton Heath	Welfare Centre 65 Whitefield Road	Mondays 2 p.m.
Weston Point	Conservative Hall	First and Third Thursdays of month at 2 p.m.

In addition to Infant Welfare Clinics, Orthopaedic, Ophthalmic, Dental and Minor Ailments Clinics are held at the Frodsham, Runcorn and Stockton Heath centres during the month, and at Runcorn, Ante- and Post-Natal Clinics are also held each Thursday at 10 a.m. A Toddlers Clinic on the first Thursday of the month, and Physiotherapy and Speech Therapy Clinics are held during the month. A Speech Therapy Clinic is now held each Thursday at the Stockton Heath Welfare Centre.

The Mobile Physiotherapy Clinic, arranged by the Chester and District Hospital Management Committee, is still held at the Welfare Centre, Runcorn. Only patients referred to the Clinic by a Specialist at a Hospital can attend for treatment at this Clinic.

The Committee inspected the Welfare Centres at Runcorn, Frodsham and Stockton Heath, and the Day Nursery, Runcorn, on the annual inspection of County owned and rented properties, and attention was given to alterations, repairs and replacements required.

Day Nursery

There is one Day Nursery in the Division, situated in Okell Street, Runcorn. The Matron and staff have again to be congratulated on their excellent work.

During the year the average daily attendance of the Nursery was 29, an increase of 1 on the previous year.

Attendances at the various clinics held at the Welfare Centres and for the Day Nursery are given in the following tables:

A. MOTHERS' CLINICS

					<i>New Cases</i>	<i>Total Attendances</i>
Ante-natal	....	....	....	....	175	622
Post-natal	....	....	....	....	—	—
Dental:—						
Pre-natal	....	....	....	....	22	55
Nursing mothers		....	....	....	60	216
Dentures supplied		....	....	....		44

B. YOUNG CHILDREN'S CLINICS

					<i>New Cases</i>	<i>Total Attendances</i>
(i) <i>Infant welfare</i>						
To 1 year	....	....	....	....	708	7313
1 to 2 years		....	....	....	—	1218
2 to 5 years		....	....	....	—	933
(ii) <i>Specialist</i>						
Ophthalmic (under 5)	....			....	26	78
Dental treatment (under 5)				....	71	85

B. (i) Welfare Centres

				<i>New Cases</i> 0—1	<i>Total Attendances</i>		
					0—1	1—2	2—5
Frodsham	....	....	....	60	697	175	144
Grappenhall	....	....	....	106	1374	191	78
Helsby	....	....	....	57	719	214	166
Kingsley	....	....	....	22	182	43	40
Runcorn	....	....	....	264	2553	389	415
Stockton Heath	....	....	....	166	1455	93	35
Weston Point	....	....	....	33	333	113	55
TOTALS	....	....	....	708	7313	1218	933

B. (ii) Ophthalmic Clinics

						<i>New Cases</i>	<i>Total Attendances</i>
Frodsham	....	....	....	....	....	6	28
Runcorn	....	....	....	....	....	6	27
Stockton Heath	....	....	....	....	....	12	33
Totals	....	....	....	....	....	24	88

(iii) Day Nursery, Runcorn

						<i>Average No. Attending</i>	<i>Total Attendances</i>
Age 0—2 years	....	....	....	....	....	7	1735
2—5 years	....	....	....	....	....	22	5366

SALE OF BRANDED WELFARE FOODS—The sale of proprietary brands of Welfare Foods at Kingsley, Runcorn and Weston Point is carried out through my office. During the year, the total sales amounted to £788. 3s. 3d.

At Frodsham, Helsby, Grappenhall and Stockton Heath Clinics, the sale of Welfare Foods is carried out by Voluntary Societies.

DISTRIBUTION OF WELFARE FOODS — M.O.F. — During the year no new distribution points were opened in the Division.

The following are details of the distribution points and commodities sold during the year.

<i>Centre</i>	<i>Commodities</i>				
	<i>N.D.Milk</i>	<i>Half Cream</i>	<i>Cod Liver Oil</i>	<i>A. & D. Capsules</i>	<i>Orange Juice</i>
Runcorn	9327	307	1861	969	15430
Alvanley	166	—	47	5	415
Appleton	961	—	84	48	963
Frodsham	2305	68	482	346	5251
Grappenhall	1009	—	233	205	3095
Halton	315	—	139	43	982
Helsby	998	—	256	171	2479
Kingsley	204	—	95	36	618
Manley	332	—	44	14	404
Moore	418	—	81	34	926
Norley	164	—	36	2	351
Preston Brook	313	—	121	22	534
Stockton Heath	989	—	295	171	2913
Sutton Weaver	52	—	43	—	206
Thelwall	22	—	35	11	105
Weston	452	—	114	25	789
Weston Point	1285	1	339	148	2404
Whitley	161	—	41	4	487
TOTAL ISSUES	19473	376	4346	2254	38352
Issues to Institutions	NIL	NIL	36	NIL	288
TOTALS FOR DIVISION	19473	376	4382	2254	38640

SECTION 23 — MIDWIFERY

Under this section the Committee are responsible for:—

- (i) Provision, where necessary, of accommodation for midwives and the maintenance, repair and alterations required for such premises.
- (ii) Provision of transport for midwives where necessary in cases of emergency.

Apart from the Midwives residing in No. 10 Stanley Villas No. 30 Heath Road Crescent, Runcorn, and No. 10 Cedar Avenue, Stockton Heath, all other County Midwives in the Division reside in property under arrangements made by themselves, and for which this Committee have no responsibility with regard to repairs, etc.

During the year the Committee inspected the County owned and rented midwives' property, and repairs requiring attention were dealt with.

Transport and medical requisites were provided as and when required.

The Midwives are doing good work in the homes where home confinements are required.

SECTION 24 — HEALTH VISITING

The Committee are also responsible for housing accommodation for Health Visitors, but all Health Visitors in the Division reside in property under arrangements made by themselves and for which this Committee have no responsibility with regard to repairs, etc.

The Health Visitors are to be congratulated on their good “all round” work in the homes, Welfare Centres, etc.

SECTION 25 — HOME NURSING

With the exception of the two district nurses in Runcorn and one District Nurse/Midwife at Budworth and Helsby who reside in properties under arrangements made by themselves and for which this Committee have no responsibility, the remainder now reside in County owned or rented property.

The Committee inspected all County owned or rented property in the Division, and action was taken regarding any alterations, repairs or renewals requiring attention.

The District Nurses provide good service to all in the homes, working in co-operation with the various General Practitioners.

SECTION 26 — VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

Every effort has again been made during the year to bring to the notice of parents and guardians the necessity of having their children vaccinated against smallpox and immunised against diphtheria and whooping cough.

Publicity has been given to this subject by posters, periodic advertisements in the local Press, and the Health Visitors have discussed the question with mothers when making their home visits. Reminders have also been sent to parents from my office.

It is pleasing to note that there was an increase in the number of vaccinations carried out, and in the number of children immunised against Whooping Cough and Diphtheria during the year.

The figures set out in the following tables, compiled from record cards received from medical practitioners, show the number of vaccinations and immunisations carried out during the year. For comparison purposes, the figures for the previous year are also given.

Vaccination

			<i>Welfare Centres</i>	<i>Doctor's Surgery</i>	<i>Patients' Homes</i>	<i>Total</i>
Primary	....	1957	132	411	40	583
		1956	82	350	47	436
Re-vaccination	....	1957	—	108	11	119
		1956	2	67	3	72

Immunisation — Primary

			<i>Welfare Centres</i>	<i>Doctor's Surgery</i>	<i>Patients' Homes</i>	<i>School Clinic</i>	<i>Total</i>
Diphtheria	....	1957	8	12	—	—	20
		1956	4	56	3	54	117
Whooping Cough	....	1957	1	2	—	—	3
		1956	—	1	1	—	2
Combined Whooping Cough/Diphtheria		1957	242	585	19	—	846
		1956	209	478	65	—	752

Immunisation — Reinforcing Injections

Diphtheria	....	1957	34	40	—	—	74
		1956	13	86	1	261	361
Whooping Cough	....	1957	—	—	—	—	—
		1956	—	—	—	—	—
Combined Whooping Cough/Diphtheria		1957	44	120	5	—	169
		1956	22	65	6	—	93

VACCINATION AGAINST POLIOMYELITIS

Vaccination against Poliomyelitis continued during the year, and all the 2,718 children registered for vaccination in March 1956 were given appointments for vaccination. 2,480 children were given two injections, and the remainder had either left the area or were unable to attend through illness, and arrangements will be made for the latter to be called to future clinics.

Arrangements were made during the year for parents of children born in 1955 and 1956 to register these children for vaccination, and 1,029 consent forms were received. Clinics will be held for the vaccination of these children early in the new year.

In November the Minister of Health offered vaccination against Poliomyelitis to all children under the age of 15 years, and to expectant mothers, also to General Medical Practitioners, ambulance staff and certain hospital staff and their families. This has been made possible by the commencement of production by a second manufacturer in England, and by importation of Salk vaccine from Canada and the United States.

SECTION 27 — AMBULANCE AND TRANSPORT SERVICE

The Ambulance Service has operated quite smoothly during the year, and it is interesting to note that further reductions were made in the number of journeys carried out, and the mileage covered. Although there was an increase of 215 in the number of patients conveyed to hospital, there was a reduction of 318 in the number of journeys made, and of 6,423 miles in the total mileage for the services during the year.

The main reason for these reductions is that the year under review was the first complete year that the ambulance service had operated with the full establishment of vehicles, with the result that fewer journeys were given to contractors, and more patients carried in our vehicles by the co-ordination of journeys.

During the year Bedford Ambulance 835 BMB was supplied as a replacement for the Morris Ambulance FLG 492, the latter vehicle to be kept at the Ambulance Station for use only in emergency or when other vehicles are off the road for repairs.

There were no resignations during the year, and Driver M. T. Newton was appointed to fill the extra vacancy in the establishment.

One driver received a bar to his 5 years' driving medal, and 10 drivers one year safe-driving diplomas for the National Safe Driving Competition and 11 drivers passed their First Aid Examination during the year.

The Committee inspected the Ambulance Station during the year, and recommended that the vehicle lift should be replaced.

Details of Journeys carried out Direct by Ambulance Station

	<i>Morris</i>	<i>Commer</i>	<i>Bedford Ambs.</i>			<i>Bedford Clinics</i>			<i>Totals</i>
	<i>FLG 492</i>	<i>MTU 731</i>	<i>PTU 296</i>	<i>835 BMB</i>	<i>XMB 268</i>	<i>TLG 538</i>	<i>TMA 444</i>	<i>XMB 258</i>	<i>for Stn.</i>
Emergencies	26	2	68	37	336	26	15	27	537
Maternity	5	—	25	28	163	10	11	16	258
Accidents	—	1	29	12	131	2	9	6	190
Ord. Removals	125	9	279	42	177	18	18	71	739
Sitting Cases	1338	230	1270	44	312	1839	1931	2197	9161
Infectious Diseases	1	2	8	—	1	—	2	1	15
Total Patients	1495	244	1679	163	1120	1895	1986	2318	10900
Total Journeys	430	98	670	118	800	756	770	707	4349
Service Journeys	5	2	9	6	8	49	46	53	178
Mileage	10924	2615	18884	2762	18924	27332	26147	24710	132298
Service Mileage	91	72	136	62	45	203	360	329	1298
Petrol: Galls	1045½	261½	1215	234	1390½	1189	1118	1012	7465½
Oil: Service	131	23	230	7	110	123	125½	132½	882
Average M.P.G.	10.5	10.3	15.6	12.1	13.6	23.1	23.7	24.7	17.9

Details of Journeys Carried Out by Contractors

	<i>Total No. Journeys</i>	<i>No. of Patients</i>	<i>No. of Accident and Emergency Journeys</i>	<i>Total Mileage</i>
Ambulances	98	110	98	1597
Cars	271	370	1	7322

Details of all journeys made during the year as compared with the previous twelve months are as follows:

	<i>Journeys</i>	<i>Patients</i>	<i>Emergencies</i>	<i>Mileage</i>
Ambulance Journeys:				
1957	2214	4811	961	55706
1956	2078	4406	874	52442
Sitting Case Journeys:				
1957	2504	6569	123	85511
1956	2958	6759	227	95198
Total all Journeys:				
1957	4718	11380	1084	141217
1956	5036	11165	1101	147640
Increase:	—	215	—	—
Decrease:	318	—	17	6423

The majority of patients in the Division requiring transport attend hospitals in Chester, Liverpool and Warrington, and the average mileage per journey for the year was 29.9 compared with 29.3 for the previous year.

The arrangements between the County Council and the Warrington Corporation, whereby the latter supplied ambulances for the conveyance of non-infectious cases from Stockton Heath and the surrounding district, were continued during the year.

SECTION 28

PREVENTION OF ILLNESS, CARE AND AFTER-CARE

Tuberculosis

The Health Visitors were informed of all new cases and asked to visit and complete the environmental report sheet, and where the contacts of the patients had not attended the Chest Clinic for examination, they were advised to do so. Every effort has been made to persuade the contacts to attend for examination.

On receipt of the completed report sheets, these were carefully investigated by me, and where the housing conditions of the patients were such that it was advisable that they should be rehoused, the

question was taken up with the Housing Departments of the Urban and Rural District Councils, and I am very pleased to report that both Councils again gave their sympathetic consideration to the rehousing of these cases, and in a large number of cases they were able to rehouse the families. Where the housing accommodation was adequate the patients were strongly advised to occupy separate bedrooms, and in all cases advice was given on the precautions to be taken to prevent the spread of infection. Advice was also given to patients on how to obtain extra nourishment and assistance.

In all cases, enquiries were made to see whether it was possible to find the cause of infection.

The chest physicians at the Runcorn and Warrington Chest Clinics tested the child contacts of cases, and during the year 22 B.C.G. Vaccinations were given in this connection.

When patients were admitted to Hospital, arrangements were made for a full disinfection of the premises to be carried out.

During the year a careful check was made with the Chest Physicians of all patients whose names appear on my Tuberculosis Register and after examination it was possible to remove the names of a few patients from such register.

The No. 3 Mass Radiography Unit visited the Runcorn, Frodsham and Helsby area of the Division during the year.

Details of cases during the period 1st January to 31st December 1957, are as follows:

	<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>		<i>Total</i>
	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	
(a) Total number of cases on register—					
1st January, 1957	169	127	21	25	342
31st December, 1957	172	136	20	25	353
(b) Removals from register, 1st January to 31st December, 1957—					
Died	1	1	—	—	2
Left district	1	6	1	—	8
Recovered	5	6	1	2	14
Lost sight of	2	1	1	—	4
	9	14	3	2	28
(c) Number of notifications received, 1st January to 31st December, 1957—					
New cases	9	15	2	2	28
Transfers	3	8	—	—	11
Restored to register	—	—	—	—	—
	12	23	2	2	39

B.C.G. Vaccination

During the year parents of children in the 13 years age group attending schools in the Division were given the opportunity of having them given B.C.G. Vaccination, and I am pleased to report that there was a very good response, approximately 80% agreeing to the vaccination of their children.

The following schools were visited during the period under review:

Balfour Road Secondary Modern School, Runcorn.

Holy Trinity C. of E. School, Runcorn.

Parish C. of E. School, Runcorn.

St. Edwards R.C. School, Runcorn.

Halton C. of E. School.

Helsby County Grammar Schools (Boys and Girls).

Helsby Secondary Modern School.

Frodsham Secondary Modern School.

Kingsley Secondary Modern School.

Stockton Heath Secondary Modern School.

Stockton Lodge Private School, Stockton Heath

Marlfield Private School, Grappenhall.

Belmont College, Gt. Budworth.

Great Budworth C. of E. School

Details of the number of forms issued, tests carried out and B.C.G. given during the year are as follows:

BEFORE VACCINATION

No. of consent forms issued	....	....	....	....	935
No. of children for whom consent received	....	....	....	....	716
No. Mantoux tested	....	....	....	....	691
No. positive to Mantoux Test	....	....	....	....	173
No. vaccinated with B.C.G.	....	....	....	....	507

AFTER B.C.G. VACCINATION

No. having follow-up Mantoux (8 weeks)	....	....	....	421
No. positive to follow-up Mantoux (8 weeks)	....	....	....	410
No. positive to follow-up Mantoux (12 months)	....	....	....	460
No. negative to follow-up Mantoux (12 months)	....	....	....	18

Arrangements were made with the No. 3 Mass Radiography Unit to visit schools in the Division to X-ray the children found to have a positive reaction to the Mantoux test. Mass X-ray was also extended to teachers and staff of the schools where a high Mantoux rate was found. No infectious lung cases were discovered.

Care of the Aged

The care and after-care of old people living on their own has continued to be a most difficult problem, but in conjunction with General Practitioners and Health Visitors, assistance has been given to have cases admitted to a suitable hospital or home for the aged, or where this has not been possible, the provision of a domestic help and a visit by the District Nurse.

Whenever there are relations and friends, contact is made with them, if required, so that they can be reminded of their responsibility in the care of the old people and more help could and should be given by relatives in many cases.

As previously mentioned, patients are encouraged to arrange for someone to live in whenever possible and practicable.

The "Over 60" Club in Runcorn, the "Darby and Joan" Club in Frodsham and the Old Persons' Clubs in Stockton Heath and Grappenhall do very good work in the care of old people, and their work could, with advantage, be copied elsewhere in the Division. In addition, Women's Institutes, Townswomen's Guilds and Church Organisations take an interest in old people's welfare, working in conjunction with ward and parish councils.

The Central Council of Social Service, Warrington, and the Citizens' Advice Bureau, Runcorn, have arranged for their voluntary assistants to visit old people living on their own in Runcorn and District and the Stockton Heath districts. They visit the old people at regular intervals and take books, periodicals, etc. and assist them in any way possible.

The volunteers visiting old people and/or disabled have carried out very good work with discretion.

Much valuable assistance has been given to the old people by these voluntary workers.

Loan of Nursing Equipment

Supplies of nursing equipment, apparatus, etc., are available for loan to patients from stocks supplied to district nurses, in accordance with the scale agreed to by the Cheshire County Council and my Committee. A reserve stock is also kept at my Divisional Office.

A patient borrowing equipment under the above heading is required to pay a deposit, which is refunded when the article is returned in good condition.

There has been a steady demand for this equipment during the year, and this service is much appreciated by those concerned.

Convalescent Home Treatment

The Committee has power to send persons in need of rest but not nursing care to convalescent homes. Only one application was received for such treatment during the year, and arrangements were made for two weeks' convalescent home treatment for the patient.

The patients are required to pay towards the cost of their stay in these homes, according to the scale laid down by the County Council. The full cost is usually beyond the means of most cases.

Handicapped Persons

A Register of Handicapped Persons is kept in my office and the patients are visited by the health visitors to ascertain what assistance can be given to these persons, working in conjunction with the various voluntary societies, etc.

Home Occupation

In a few cases where patients are suffering from prolonged disability, resultant upon injury or sickness, arrangements have been made, in conjunction with the chest physicians and/or the patient's medical practitioner, and the British Red Cross Society for the supply of materials and apparatus for home occupation.

The patients have found very great interest in the work and a new pleasure in life.

Health Visitors have given the greatest assistance to me in this important matter.

It is hoped to increase this service during 1958 for cases requiring occupational therapy in the home, via health visitors, etc., especially for tuberculous cases.

Health Education

This is best spread by personal contacts; the health visitors pay special attention to Health Education in their day-to-day work.

Copies of my pamphlet "Commonsense Preventive Measures Against Disease" have been widely distributed throughout the Division, and posters on health education matters have been forwarded to shops, etc., for display.

Pamphlets are also left at homes where there are cases of infectious disease, giving details of the precautions to be taken to avoid the spread of infection

SECTION 29 — DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE

The number of domestic helps employed at 31st December 1957 was 37.

The number of cases provided with domestic helps during the year increased from 162 to 169, an increase of 7. The total number of hours domestic helps were supplied to cases during the year was 31,644 compared with 26,570 in 1956, an increase of 5,074 hours.

The demand on this service greatly increased during the year, due to the number of aged persons requiring help, and in particular, to the fact that it was necessary to increase the number of hours help was supplied to certain cases of aged persons who had been receiving help for long periods, owing to their deterioration, but by this help it was possible to care for these old persons in their homes.

Most old people do not wish to enter hospital or Homes for the Aged, but to remain in their own homes as long as possible, and every effort is made, with the aid of this service and additional help from relatives and neighbours, visits by members of voluntary societies and, when necessary, visits by the District Nurse, to make this possible.

With the aid of the Domestic Help Service it has certainly been possible to look after quite a large number of patients, who, without this help, would have had to be admitted to a Hospital or Home.

The following table shows the types of case supplied with help during 1956 and 1957:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Confinement Cases</i>	<i>Tuberculosis Cases</i>	<i>Aged Persons</i>	<i>Cases of Other Illness</i>
1957	25	3	123	18
1956	22	5	106	29

At the 31st December 1957, there were 92 protracted cases remaining on the register, an increase of 21 on the 1956 total.

The service is not free to patients but subject to the County Council Scale of Assessment.

Where any hardship is claimed after the assessment, the case is referred to the Divisional Health Committee for their decision in the matter.

